

Message Text

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21

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH OPINION POLL ON EC MEMBERSHIP --

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE PRO-MARKETEERS

REF: LONDON 1647

1. THE LATEST PUBLIC OPINION POLL ON EC MEMBERSHIP SHOWS A MARKED INCREASE IN PRO-MARKET SENTIMENT OVER ONE TAKEN IN JANUARY. THE LATEST POLL ALSO INDICATES THAT THE TURNOUT ON THE EC REFERENDUM COULD WELL EXCEED 60 PER CENT.

2. ACCORDING TO AN OPINION RESEARCH CENTRE POLL PUBLISHED ON MARCH 7 BY THE "EVENING STANDARD," 48 PER CENT OF THOSE ASKED SAID THAT THEY WOULD VOTE IN UNCLASSIFIED

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FAVOR OF BRITAIN'S STAYING IN THE COMMUNITY IF THE

REFERENDUM WERE HELD TODAY. THIRTY-FOUR PER CENT SAID THEY WOULD VOTE FOR LEAVING, AND 18 PER CENT EITHER SAID THAT THEY DON'T KNOW OR THAT IT WOULD DEPEND ON THE TERMS.

3. THIS CONTRASTS WITH A GALLUP POLL TAKEN IN MID-JANUARY (REFTEL) IN WHICH 33 PER CENT SAID THEY WOULD VOTE TO STAY IN, AND 41 PER CENT SAID THEY WOULD VOTE TO LEAVE.

4. THE LATEST POLL INDICATES THAT MEN ARE MORE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT EC MEMBERSHIP THAN WOMEN; CONSERVATIVES ARE MORE ENTHUSIASTIC THAN LABOUR SUPPORTERS OR LIBERALS; AND OLDER PEOPLE ARE MORE ENTHUSIASTIC THAN YOUNGER ONES.

5. IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION, 64 PER CENT OF THOSE ASKED SAID THAT THEY ARE "ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN" THEY WILL VOTE IN THE REFERENDUM. THE POLL INDICATED THAT THE PRO-MARKETEERS BELIEVE MORE STRONGLY THAT EC MEMBERSHIP MATTERS FOR BRITAIN THAN ANTI-MARKETEERS. ON THE OTHER HAND -- PARADOXICALLY -- THE ANTI-MARKETEERS FEEL SOMEWHAT MORE STRONGLY ABOUT THE ISSUE THAN THE PRO-MARKETEERS.

6. WE ARE FORWARDING THE RESULTS OF THE OPINION RESEARCH CENTRE POLL BY AIRGRAM.

RICHARDSON

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